DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 125 717 JC 760 393

AUTHOR Geer, Howard S.
TITLE A Profile of the Continuing Education Student at Montgomery College.
INSTITUTION Montgomery Coll., Rockville, Md.
PUB DATE May 76
NOTE 13p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adult Students; Age; Community Colleges; *Community Services; *Continuous Learning; Females; *Junior Colleges; Males; *Noncredit Courses; Occupations; Part Time Students; Programs; *Student Characteristics
IDENTIFIERS Montgomery College

ABSTRACT

In order to determine the characteristics of the noncredit Community Services student at Montgomery College, data gathered from the 7,905 registrations received between May 1975 and March 1976 were tabulated and analyzed. Results indicate that the typical student is a 25-34 year old female secretary or housewife, living in the Gaithersburg area, and enrolling in only one course at a time. About two-thirds of the Community Services students were enrolled for the first time during the time period studied; another 21% had enrolled in one course previously. The age range of these students was from 10 years to 87 years. Approximately 18% of the students were between the ages of 25 and 29, while another 17% were between the ages of 30 and 34. Ten percent of the students were over 60 years of age. The male/female ratio was 42% to 58%, respectively. The largest occupational group identified was secretaries, while housewife/homemaker and manager were the next most common occupations represented. Other occupations in the top ten were retired persons, architects and engineers, students, secondary school teachers, real estate and insurance agents, professional and technical managers, and clerk typists. (DC)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

ED125717

A PROFILE OF THE CONTINUING EDUCATION STUDENT AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

HOWARD S. GEER
DEAN OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

May 1976

JC 760 373

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
1. Age of Students	1
Table 1 - Age Distribution of Students Enrolled in Non-Credit Courses	2
2. Sex of Students	3
3. Residence by Postal Zone	3
Figure 1 - Community Services Students by Zip Codes Within Montgomery County May 1975 - March 1976	4
Figure 2 - Percent of Community Services Students Within Montgomery County May 1975 - March 1976	5
Figure 3 - Number of Students per 100 Households in Zip Areas of Montgomery County	6
4. The Occupations of Students	7
Table 2 - The Ten Most Common Occupations of Students Enrolling in Non-Credit Courses	8
5. Number of Courses Taken	9
Table 3 - Cumulative Course Enrollment May 1973 - March 1976 For Students Who Enrolled May 1975 - March 1976	10

INTRODUCTION

The wide range of course offerings included in the Community Services program has been designed in response to the needs and interests of the Montgomery County citizen. Thus, the program appeals to a broad cross section of the citizenry who wish to take advantage of the educational opportunities provided by their community college.

This document, a profile of the continuing education student, is based on information from 7,905 registrations received by the Office of Community Services between May 1975 and March 1976. The profile, which is basically an initial study of the characteristics of the Community Services non-credit student, illustrates the degree to which the general public is being served. Comparable data from previous years is not available for comparison. However, as this document establishes a basic profile for the continuing education student, further related data can now be made available in the future.

The student data base for continuing education students is considerably different from that required for students enrolled in credit courses and, therefore, a limited number of variables has been used in compiling this profile. They include: (1) age; (2) sex; (3) residence by postal zone; (4) occupation; and (5) number of non-credit courses for which this sample of individuals has enrolled since May of 1973.

The data in the above five categories, shown in detail in the sections below, indicate that the typical student is in the 25-34 year age group, more apt to be a female secretary or housewife and living in the Gaithersburg area, and a student who enrolls only in one course at a time.

1. THE AGE OF STUDENTS

The Community Services Office records the age of students as part of the routine enrollment process. In the present study period, 99 percent of the students supplied birth date information.

The age range of the continuing education students was from 10 years to 87 years. The median age was found to be 34 years. Twenty-seven was the most common age reported, comprising 4 percent of the population. Approximately 18 percent of the students were between the ages of 25 and 29 while another 17 percent were between 30 and 34 years old. Thus, this ten-year age span included over one-third of the students. Further analysis revealed that 798 students, or 10 percent of the population were over 60 years of age. (Table 1)

Table 1

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN NON-CREDIT COURSES

AGE	NO. OF STUDENTS		PERCENT	
Unknown	76		.9	
70-89	109		1.4	
60-69	690		8.7	
50-59	958		12.0	
45-49	628		7.9	
40-44	685		8.6	
35-39	810		10.2	
34	237		2.9	
33	265		3.3	
32	254	1373	3.2	16.5
31	264		3.3	
30	303		3.8	
29	304		3.8	
28	262		3.3	
27	320	1432	4.0	17.9
26	274		3.4	
25	272		3.4	
20-24	888		11.2	
15-19	282		3.5	
10-14	25		.3	
Total	7,905		100.0	

2. SEX OF STUDENTS

Fifty-eight percent of students enrolled for Community Services courses were female while 42 percent were male. This closely parallels the distribution of credit students where 52 percent are female and 48 percent are male.

Unfortunately comparative data of sex distribution for previous years is not available. However, there has been a prevailing impression among the staff that in previous years the ratio of women to men was greater, possibly as much as 2 to 1. If there has been a shift toward a greater proportion of men it may reflect the impact of program changes toward occupation-oriented courses in such fields as automotive repair, construction, and real estate appraisal.

3. RESIDENCE BY POSTAL ZONE

Community Service students enrolled in non-credit courses are primarily Montgomery County residents. Of the 7,905 students who registered between May 1975 and March 1976 almost 94 percent were county residents.

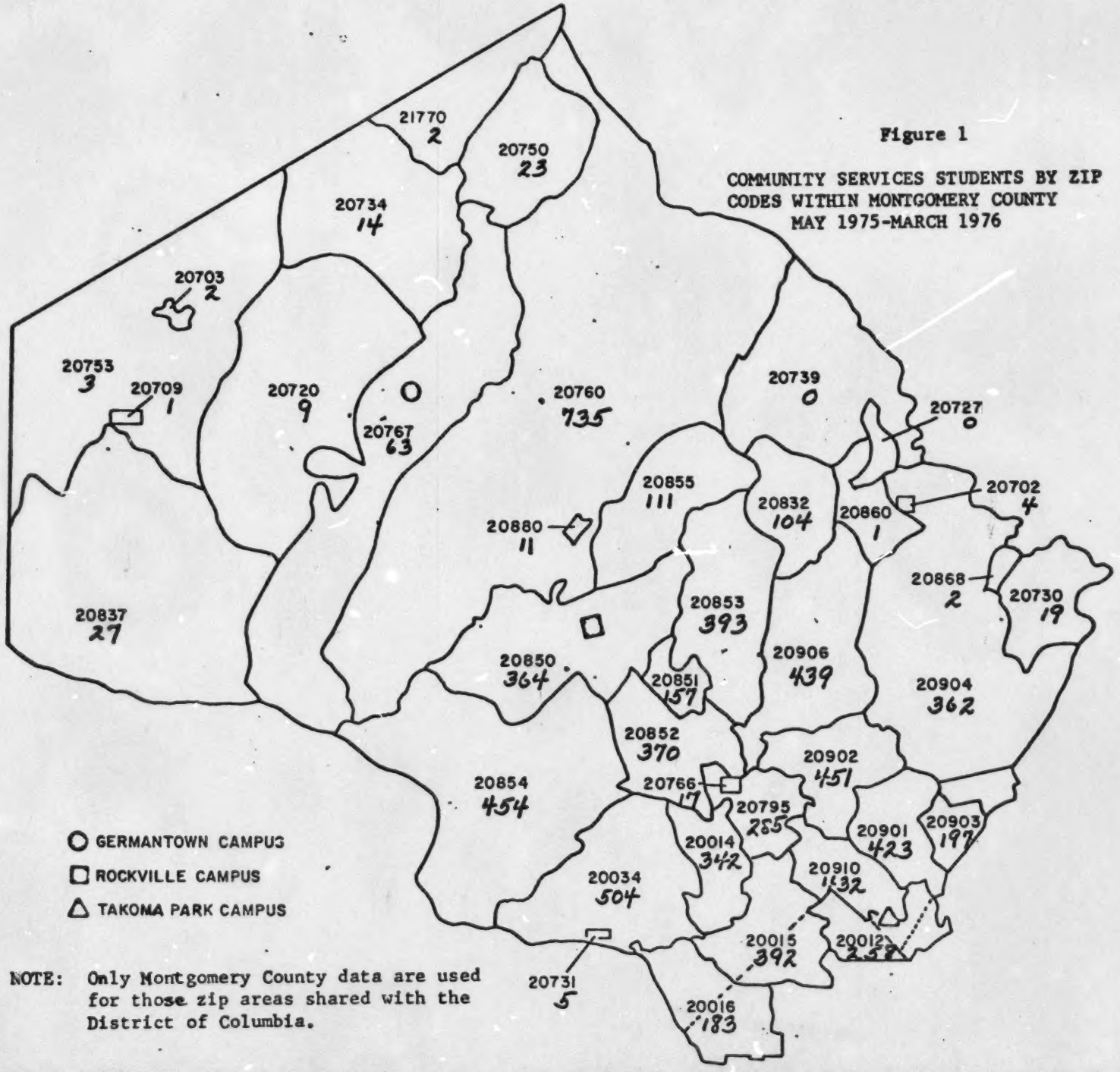
Figure 1 shows the number of students living in each postal area. Figure 2 shows the percent of students enrolled from each area, and Figure 3 depicts the number of students per 100 households in each area of the county.

The zip code area having the greatest number of students is Gaithersburg's "20760" with 735 students. The second largest is Bethesda's "20034" with 504 students, while Potomac's "20854" is third with 454 students. The ten zip code areas having the greatest number of students have remained the same since 1973.

The number of students per 100 households in an area served by Community Services courses should not be confused with the actual number of students who reside in that zip code area as the population density varies greatly from area to area. For example, Gaithersburg has the largest number of students residing in a given postal zone but ranks ninth in percent of households served. The assumption made in Figure 3 is that only one member of the household enrolled in a course. This may not be the case, but this approach gives the best index presently devised to measure the impact of the program.

Figure 1

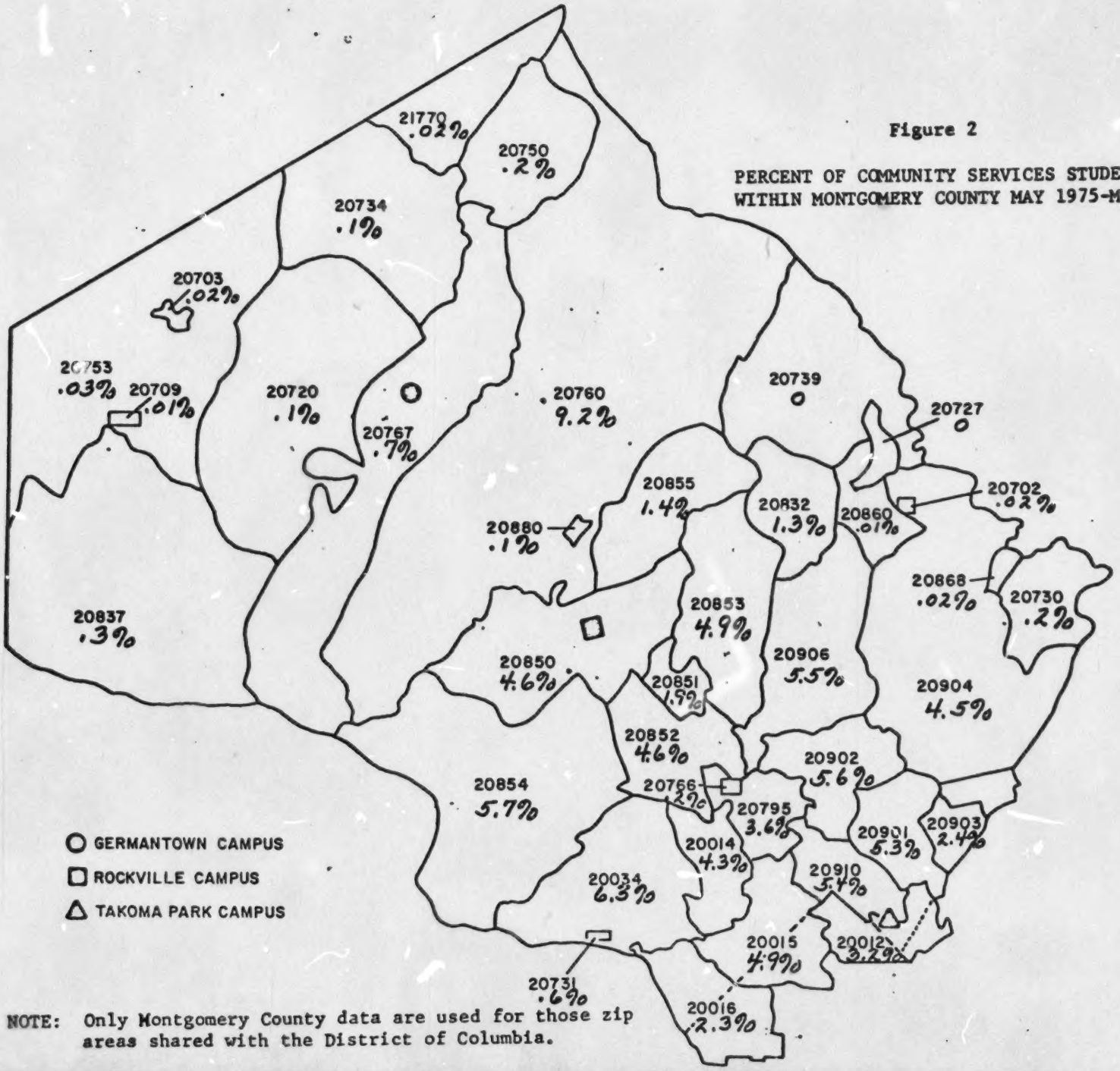
COMMUNITY SERVICES STUDENTS BY ZIP CODES WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY MAY 1975-MARCH 1976



NOTE: Only Montgomery County data are used for those zip areas shared with the District of Columbia.

Figure 2

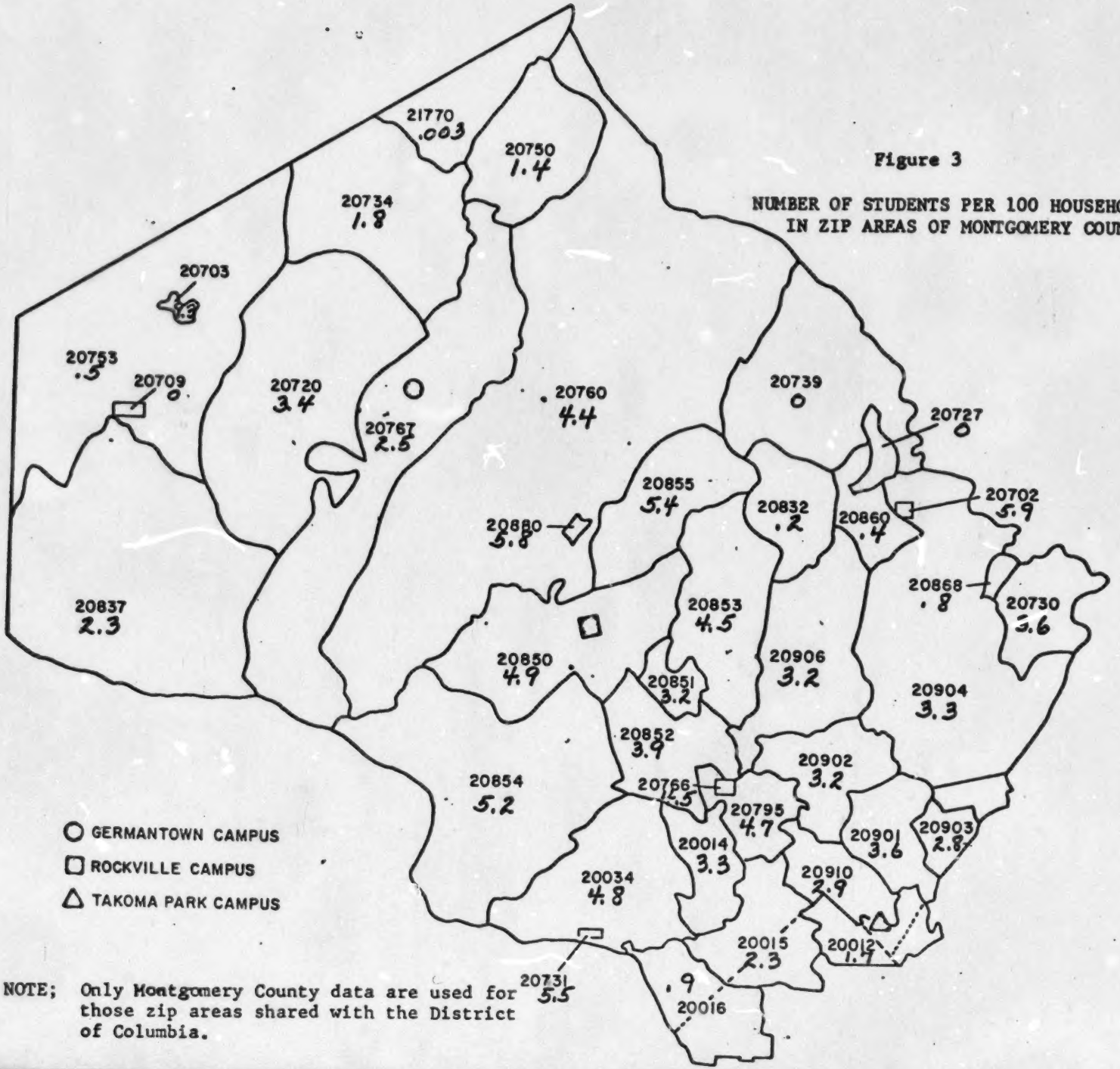
PERCENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES STUDENTS
WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY MAY 1975-MARCH 1976



NOTE: Only Montgomery County data are used for those zip areas shared with the District of Columbia.

Figure 3

NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER 100 HOUSEHOLDS
IN ZIP AREAS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



NOTE; Only Montgomery County data are used for those zip areas shared with the District of Columbia.

4. THE OCCUPATIONS OF STUDENTS

The Community Services registration form requests information regarding the occupation of the enrolling student. During the study period, 92 percent of the students supplied occupational information. While there exist some ambiguities in the process of interpretation and coding, 166 different occupations appear to be represented in the student population.

The largest occupational group identified was secretaries, while housewife/homemaker and manager were the next most common occupations represented. Other groups in the top ten were the following: 4) retired persons; 5) architects and engineers; 6) students; 7) secondary school teachers; 8) real estate and insurance agents/brokers; 9) professional and technical managers and 10) clerk typists. (Table 2). These ten classifications include 38 percent of the students.

Other occupations having substantial numbers are registered nurses, medical and dental technologists, physicians, accountants, lawyers, general sales personnel, writers/editors, dentists, college and university educators, primary teachers, and librarians. This cluster accounts for 9 percent of the students.

In addition, professions which show significant numbers are included in seven different engineering categories: chemists, physicists, meteorologists, mathematicians and physicial scientists, psychologists, economists, and budget and management analysts. These occupations account for 5 percent of the students. The remaining 40 percent are spread among the other 136 occupations.

Table 2

THE TEN MOST COMMON OCCUPATIONS OF
STUDENTS ENROLLING IN NON-CREDIT COURSES

	No. of Students	Percent
Secretary	620	8
Housewife, homemaker, parent	580	7
Managers and supervisors	499	6
Retired	350	4
Architects and Engineers	275	3
Student	270	3
Secondary school teacher or administrator	175	2
Real Estate and Insurance sales	134	2
Professional & technical managers	120	2
Clerk typist	109	1
Total	3,132	38

Note: Occupations were coded according to the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, Department of Labor, 1965.

5. NUMBER OF COURSES TAKEN

One of the characteristics of the continuing education students is their frequency of course enrollment. In general, for each 10 individuals there will be 11 course enrollments in a specific term.

Another factor, which is somewhat a measure of success, is the total enrollment participation of the student through a series of terms. Data are available since the computer based Community Service record system began in May 1973. For the students who enrolled in the program at least once during the study period, it was decided to determine their cumulative involvement since the record system was placed in the computer.

About two-thirds of the students were enrolled for the first time during the study period. Another 21 percent of the students had enrolled in one course previously. The remainder were enrolled at least two times previously, including one student who has enrolled for 19 non-credit courses over the past few years. (Table 3).

Table 3

CUMULATIVE COURSE ENROLLMENT
May 1973 - March 1976
FOR STUDENTS WHO ENROLLED MAY 1975 - MARCH 1976

Number of Non-Credit Courses	Number of Studerts	Percent
First course	5,226	66
Second course	1,665	21
Third course	519	7
Fourth course	239	3
Fifth course	123	2
Sixth course	65	1
Seventh course	25	
Eighth course	18	
Ninth course	8	
Tenth course	2	
Eleventh course	3	
Twelfth course	4	
Fourteenth course	1	
Fifteenth course	3	
Sixteenth course	3	
Nineteenth course	1	
Totals	7,905	100

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

AUG 20 1976

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES